Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no misuse takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country, due to a combination of factors *viz.*, reduction in supply of bulk LPG compared to the target by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

At present, OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day-to-day basis and corrective action is being taken wherever required.

Supply of Gas to NTPC

3050. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India (GAIL) have a long-term agreement with NTPC for the supply of gas under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) category to gas based power plants;

(b) if so, the details including average APM gas supplied to NTPC for last two years for the power plants;

(c) if so, whether six gas-based power plants are lying under utilized due to shortage of natural gas;

(d) if so, the loss of power generation at NTPC due to shortage of APM gas for last two years, year-wise, power gas plant-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Gas Sales Agreement between GAIL and NTPC for supply of APM gas has expired on 31st March 2008. Both parties are discussing the signing of new agreements.

(b) Against firm allocation of around 11.8 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) for NTPC power plants, APM supply of natural gas by GAIL was around 9.28 MMSCMD in 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto 3rd quarter). The lower supply is because of lower availability of APM gas.

(c) and (d) The estimated gas requirement to operate the plant is around 17.35 MMSCMD However, the gas received in the year 2007-08 and 2006-07 is 11.75 and 12.67 MMSCMD respectively, including regassified liquefied natural gas (RLNG). Further, the plants can use alternative fuels.

The station-wise net shortfall in power generation due to fuel shortages during 2006-07 and 2007-08 as reported by Central Electricity Authority is as under:—

Station	2006-07 (in MU)	2007-08 (in MU)
Anta	337	597
Auraiya	776	1124
Dadri	936	1204
Faridabad	487	615
Kawas	1853	1651
Gandhar	662	1197
TOTAL	5051	6388

(e) The demand for natural gas in the country is higher than its production. The Government of India has initiated various steps to augment gas supplies for the domestic market. These cover:—

(1) Intensification in domestic E&P activities;

(2) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;

(3) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;

(4) LNG Import; and

(5) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

Indraprastha Gas.Ltd.

3051. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indraprastha Gas Ltd. has been recently indicated by the MRTPC for profit making through monopolistic practices;